

## Flash Flood Forecasting on a Tropical Small Islands, towards Disaster Preparedness – Trinidad

### Abstract

Flooding in Trinidad and Tobago is a perennial event, hence a major effort is made to mitigate against this disaster. The National Emergency Management Agency have established a community based flash flood early warning system, which incorporates historical rainfall, stream flow data and anecdotal information from the community to create historical flood maps.

Members of the communities through their participation at the start of the program, in the creation of the historical flood maps and the river basin mapping which follows, achieve a sense of ownership of the early warning system within their community. This is further enhanced with the capacity building in the areas of monitoring, communication, disaster mitigation and needs analysis.

When a flood event is forecast, a warning is issued to the affected communities through the focal point(s), who communicate this warning within their communities. After a flood event, there is a meeting of all the stakeholders, where the warning and the actions taken in response, are analyzed towards improving the system.